

Alaska Small Mammal Working Group

Agenda for the 2022 Meeting

Friday, April 22nd, 2022

Developed by: Katie Christie

10:00-10:05: Welcome and Introductions

1 - ESA and Management Updates

10:05-10:25: Kaiti Ott & Andrew Hope – Northern bog lemming status and genetic research update.

10:25 – 10:35: Karen Blejwas – Little brown bat status assessment and Alaska bat paper

10:35-10:40: Katie Christie for Rick Merizon and Chris Barger – Alaska hare management update

2 – Mission Statement and Objectives

10:40-10:50: Discuss over-arching goals of AK small mammal group.

Mission: *“To foster collaborative research and conservation of Alaska’s diverse small mammal community”*

1. Have an annual meeting to share research and management updates
2. Produce annual newsletter sharing all small mammal research in the state, taxonomic updates, publications
3. Identify key goals for small mammal research within the state
4. Facilitate cross-taxa collaboration on small mammals in Alaska

10:50-11:00: Break

11:00-11:10: Nomination of co-chair

3 – Future Directions

11:00-11:05: Katie & Amanda: Recap results from recently published ASRS paper, discuss future research directions

11:05-11:50: All: Discuss genetic techniques for population monitoring, assessing adaptive capacity, and diet, and explore opportunities for future work.

1. Andrew – bog lemming – are they segregated into genetically distinct populations? Pros/Cons.

2. Hayley – adaptive capacity of pikas. What can we learn from tissue samples?
3. Andy B. – understanding diet. Pros and cons of DNA metabarcoding to understand diet. Contamination of samples? How to sample feces to avoid the pitfalls. Is there any point in using stable isotopes when you can do DNA metabarcoding?

Who else is using genetic techniques?

Are there projects or other species that would benefit from genetic approaches?

Question to group: Does Alaska have a disproportionate amount of genetic diversity because of our location, glacial history, topography, and islands? Insular, endemic small mammals? Opportunities for speciation? Are we unique?

12:00: Adjourn